

Organizing, Participating in, and/or Documenting mail art, sound poetry, visual poetry and noise events in Roanoke (with a few excursions to Pulaski, and one to Columbus OH): 2008 - 2018

I moved to Roanoke in 2005 with the idea of joining an artists' co-op in order to have a space for hosting public events and exhibits, specifically readings / performances of experimental poetries and small, short-term exhibits of text/image works such as collages and visual poems. The co-op never materialized and it was over two years before I was able to organize anything, but by the time Olchar Lindsann moved here in the summer of 2010 he was willing to respond to my statement that I had moved here with the idea of making Roanoke a center for sound poetry and visual poetry by saying "you have done that." Seven years later, Roanoke is still a center for sound poetry, primarily because of Olchar's presence here (along with his fellow Post-Neo poetry performers Bradley Chriss, Warren Fry and Tomislav Butkovic), and because of John M. Bennett's yearly performances at the Marginal Arts and afterMAF festivals. Visual poetry on the other hand has all but disappeared from the local scene.

Jim Leftwich  
07.18.2017

2008

Organization and Documentation: Marginal Arts Festival (a large Mail Art show of my personal archives at the Lawson Building on Campbell Ave, a display of Brain Cell sheets at the Dumas Center)

Visiting Artists: John M. Bennett and Olchar E. Lindsann

Organization and Documentation: Post-Neo Absurdist Solidarity Show, with Ralph Eaton

Collab Fest at the Magic Twig Community's superfriends festival in Elmwood Park (collaborative collage and vispo suit) (11.08.08)

Participant in The Unknown, at the Wilson/Hughes gallery (phone poems with New Jersey PNA and vispo suit) (11.08.08)

Documentation and Curator: Liminal Gallery, with Brian Counihan and Ralph Eaton, window at the Art Museum of Western Virginia

Organization and Documentation: Collab Fests 1 - 11 (including Collab Fest 3, with Id M Theft Able)

2009

Documentation: Must See TV Improv(e) (Downtown Roanoke)

Writer and Performer: Simple Gifts, video by Matt Ames (Original Title: "American History")

Organization and Documentation: Collab Fests 12 through 36 (including special collab fest #12.5, a celebration of Art's Birthday with the visiting Post-Neos from New Jersey and DC, and collab fest 34 with Crank Sturgeon)

Organization and Documentation: Marginal Arts Festival

Visiting Artists: John and Cathy Bennett, Reed Altemus, tMichael Peters, Olchar Lindsann, Warren Fry, Tomislav Butkovic, Evan Damerow, Brad Chriss, Megan Blafas, Bela Grimm, Julian Matthews, Wendy Collin Sorin, Scott Helmes, Sheila Murphy, Kathy Ernst, and Steve Random

Local Performers and Exhibiting Artists: TJ Anderson, Lee Melozzi, Geof Conley, Dickie Eikcid, and Matt Ames

Call, Curator and Documentation, MAIL ART CALL: MAIL ART RESPONSES TO TRENCH ART, during the Marginal Arts Festival

2010

Writer, Performer, and Documentation: "Banana Peels In Roanoke", with Matt Ames for his Philosophy Inc Saves The Taubman installation

Documentation: Loup-Garou at the Water Heater 03.17.10 (Walter Wright on electronics, Setheyeny Pen on drums, toy pianos and objects)

Collab Fest In Columbus, at Skylab, in conjunction with the Avant Writing Symposium at OSU

Call, Curator and Documentation: Fluxus Now mail art show, during the Marginal Arts Festival

Visiting Artists: Reed Altemus, Geof Huth, Keith Buchholz, Andrew Topel, Id M Theft Able, Olchar Lindsann, Warren Fry, and Tomislav Butkovic

Local Performers: Ralph Eaton, TJ Anderson, Richard Normand, Gyorgi Voros and Bill Beamer

Organization and Documentation: Collab Fests 37 through 62 (including collab fest in Columbus, as part of Cathy Bennett's mail art show during the avant writing symposium at OSU) (and also including collab fest 46 with Crank Sturgeon and Matt Taggart)

2011

Host and Documentation: Adriana de los Santos & Andrea Pensado, at the Water Heater, Roanoke, 08.24.2011

Organization and Documentation: Collab Fests 63 through 83

Curator, Call and Documentation: Mail Art Call - Performance Texts: Graphic Scores: Open Scores: Visual Poems: Event Scores: Open Texts: Eternal Network: (as part of the Labyrinth exhibits and performances at curated by Warren Fry during the 2011 Marginal Arts Festival) -- at The Metropolitan Community Church of The Blue Ridge

Documentation: Marginal Arts Festival

Pansemic Playhouse 17 - 08.08.11: Fuck Austerity (solo performance documented with a single photograph)

Pansemic Playhouse 53-09.03.11: lunch break: self-portrait of the non-artist talking to himself (solo performance documented with a single photograph -- of a blank rectangle of the wall above my computer desk)

2012

Mail Art Call, Curator and Documentation: Roanoke Decentralized Networker Congress (DNC 12), at the Liminal Gallery (CHS) (coordinated with Rebecca Weeks in Cornwall UK, Susan Gold in Windsor Canada, Graciela Gutiérrez Marx in Buenos Aires Argentina, Emilio Morandi in Ponte Nossa Italy, Nenad Bogdanovic in Odzaci Serbia and Keith Buchholz in St. Louis USA)

Artists visiting via computer: John M. Bennett, Jukka-Pekka Kervinen, Rod Summers  
Visiting artists: Reed Altemus, Reid Wood

Local performers/participants/presenters: Warren Fry, Robin Knapmeyer, Olchar Lindsann, Aaron Bensen, Tomislav Butkovic, Mark Perry, Matt Ames, Ralph Eaton, Bill Beamer

Documentation: Marginal Arts Festival

Hosted Rebecca Weeks from Cornwall for a month, during and around the festival

Artist/Visual Poet: PROject proJECT II, improvised live scanner collages projected onto the wall under the bridge between the Taubman Museum and Community High School

on 8-16-12 Bill Beamer and Tomislav Butkovic installed at the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley Menagerie show a 3-way collaborative work by Beamer Leftwich and Katastrof entitled:

1. cream-o-what, fleeing strata: the akashic record player
2. Frank Wright
3. recombinant axon schematic

2013

Host, Organization and Documentation: Id M Theft Able, Warren Fry & Tomislav Butkovic @max space 2.27.13

Host, Organization and Documentation, House Show and Gathering at The River: Crank Surgeon and Matt Taggart, with PNA 05.21.13

"And I was plunged into the amorous sadness of the night" (an evolution of the prose poem from Bertrand to Baudleaire to Rimbaud), vispo and sculpture exhibit with Bill Beamer at Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley

Documentation: Marginal Arts Festival

Organization and Documentation: House Show with John and Cathy Bennett, Robert Saunders, Kala Ladenheim, Bill Beamer, Warren Fry and Tomislav Butkovic performing (including a tribute to Blaster al Ackerman)

2014

"Flux Box" exhibit at the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley

Documentation: Marginal Arts Festival

Participant: The OUTER CIRCLE Skype Performance Exchange with Russian Avant Garde

Hosted Rebecca Weeks and Ian Whitford from Cornwall for a month, during and around the festival

Documentation of collaboration with Cathy Bennett to construct a vispo installation in the Akademgorod space during the Marginal Arts Festival

Writer and Documentation: Collab Fest Notes 1 - 60 and Collab Fest Notes 61 - 83 published by TLPpress in the textimagepoem collection at archive . org

Organization and Documentation: House Show for Matt Ames, introducing his band Cat Mob

2015

Documentation: afterMAF at Art Rat Studios and Liminal Gallery

Documentation: Anti-Brain Rot Mail Art Show at Katastrof Mansion, during the afterMAF

Documentation of collaboration with Cathy Bennett, to construct a vispo installation in the Liminal Gallery during the afterMAF

Documentation of an exhibit by Bill Beamer and Beth Shumate at the Fine Arts Center of the New River (Warren, Tomislav, Olchar, Bill and I made the trip down as the final event of the afterMAF)

Pansemic Playhouse 1319 - 06.05.15, basketball at Wasena Park, jim leftwich, sue leftwich, evan damerow and matt ames / photos by sue and jim leftwich

2016

Mail Art Call and Documentation: What Is Participatory Democracy? Organized with Warren Fry in conjunction with Community High School

Artist/Visual Poet: "Dirty Vispo" exhibit at the Fine Arts Center of the New River Valley

Documentation: afterMAF at Art Rat Studios

Documentation of collaboration with Cathy Bennett, to construct a vispo installation at the Art Rat during the afterMAF

2017

The Last Pansemic Playhouse: pansemic playhouse 1465 - 05.19.2017, a collaboration with Bill Beamer (of the 1465 pansemic playhouse sets posted to my textimagepoetry flickr site I would estimate approximately 1400 of them are collaborations with Bill Beamer)

(As of May 19, 2017, Bill and I have created 1465 vispo collaborations under the umbrella of the "pansemic playhouse". Each "pansemic playhouse" exists as an "album" at textimagepoetry, which is the name of my collection on flickr. The average album contains approximately 25 items, with a few albums being much larger and a few being very small.  $1465 \times 25 = 36625$ . That's an estimate, of course, but suffice to say that Bill and I have circulated a lot of work under the rubric of "pansemic playhouse". Many of the albums are structured in pairs, in a kind of call and response relationship, either as Me-Bill Me-Bill Me-Bill etc, or for example 12 Bill-12 Me. The first arrangement creates a kind of weave or wave pattern, as if a flowing conversation, and the second presents the juxtaposition of distinct forms and styles for contrast and comparison. --Jim Leftwich)

Collaboration with Cathy Bennett, to construct a vispo installation at the Art Rat during the afterMAF

Organization and Participant: collab fest table at the Art Rat during the afterMAF

Writer and Documentation: Diaristic Reports

(Some of these diaristic reports have been published in The InAppropriate-d Press, Arteidolia, slowforward, and Otoliths.)

Volume 1

Table of Contents

Walter Wright and Al Margolis at Art Rat Studios: Noisic Elements: Micro-tours, The Stool Sample Ensemble, Speaking Zaum To Power, September 19, 2016

Billy Bob Beamer "Word Dust, Untitled" Reception, Virginia Western Community College, October 13, 2016

Matt Taggart/Luer and Jason Soliday at Art Rat, May 23, 2017

Divorce Ring, Virgin Flower, and The Llywelyn-Reutling Expedition (Feralcatscan + Khate) @Art Rat Studios 05.30.2017

In The Sea, OmegaWolfe, Tater Fraterabo, CGI Jesus, Sunday 06.04.2017, 7 p.m., at Art Rat Studios

Listening Party: Alice Kemp -- Fill My Body With Flowers and Rice, a private event at Katastrof Mansion (with an even more private event at my house), June 14, 2017

Relaxing 5 min Videos with Willie Gussin - Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 7 PM - 11 PM

Dybbuk, Tomislav Butkovic and Olchar Lindsann, Mister Thursday, Bradley Chriss and Megan Blafas-Chriss, and The Ad Hoc Rat Ensemble, Wednesday, July 12, 2017, at 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM EDT, @ Art Rat Studios

The Emotron, Feralcatscan, and The Ad Hoc Rat Ensemble, Thursday, July 27, 2017, at 7 PM - 11 PM, Art Rat Studios

Last living night on earth improvisation showcase: Hosted by Cambria McMillan-Zapf and Ralph Eaton, Friday, July 28, 2017 at 7 PM - 11 PM, Art Rat

Meinschaft / 1mitator / The Llywelyn Expedition, Hosted by Ralph Eaton, Saturday AUG 12, 2017, 7 PM - 11 PM, Art Rat Studios

Decide Today w/Neural Necrosis, Tater Fraterabo, & PNA, Hosted by Star City Shadow School and Art Rat Studios, Sunday AUG 13, 2017 at 7 PM - 10 PM, Art Rat Studios

Id M Theft Able, Mr. Thursday, Olchar Lindsann: Public Event by Ralph Eaton, Monday, September 18 at 7 PM - 11 PM, Art Rat Studios

Zone Lord, Tater Fraterabo\*, Public · Hosted by Ralph Eaton, Monday, October 9 at 7 PM - 11 PM, Art Rat Studios [Tater Fraterabo did not perform]

Meg Mulhearn • Aerial Ruin • Claire & Miles sound/movement duet, Public, Hosted by Tim Yaddow and Ralph Eaton, Saturday, October 28 at 8 PM - 11 PM, Art Rat Studio

## Volume 2

### Table of contents

1. Tashi Dorji, The Llywelyn Expedition, Moss garden, Monday, October 30 at 7 PM - 11 PM, Art Rat Studios
2. Q & A with artist, Willie Baronet and director, Tim Chumley, Roanoke College, Olin Hall Galleries, Thursday, November 2nd
3. Gardener, GULL, plus Blacksburg & Art Rat All-Stars, Monday, November 20, Art Rat Studio, Roanoke, Virginia 24013
4. WILD TORUS, NON GRATA, Mr. Thursday, Monday, December 4 at 7 PM - 11 PM, Art Rat Studio
5. The Writing Is The Event. At home, not always alone, December 2017.

## 2018

### Writer and Documentation: Diaristic Reports

Diaristic Reports Volumes 3 and 4 are continuations of the idea that "The Writing Is The Event". There are no reports on any public events in those volumes.

## Volume 5

### Table of contents

March 18 at Art Rat Studios / Durian Brow -- Zach Darrup (guitar), and Ben Bennett (drums and percussion) / Kaily Moon Schenker, Cello & Nick Keeling, Rhodes Mark 1 & Organ: "experimental classical" / Olchar E. Lindsann -- sound poetry

March 23 at Art Rat Studios / Hamilton/Milovac Duo, Tater Fraterabo, Art Rat All-Stars

March 25 at Art Rat Studios / Jack Topht, The Llywelyn Expedition with Khate / Art Rat Allstars

March 27 at Art Rat Studios / Decide Today / Beyond the Borders / Lindsann

April 17 at Art Rat Studios / Ralph E. White / Mark Perry

June 2 at Art Rat Studios / If, Bwana ~ Graven Image ~ Claire Constantikes

June 5 at Art Rat Studios / Anastasia Clarke ~ Crystal Penalosa ~ Llywelyn Expedition

June 7 at Art Rat Studios / Bats from Pogo (Walter Wright & Andrea Pensado) ~ Lauren Toss will ~ Robert Imhuman

Jim Leftwich

June 11 - 12, 2018